

## The Mennonite School Case

The Dominion Government by an order-in-council had granted the Mennonites on their arrival in Canada in 1874, "the fullest privilege of exercising their religious principles and educating their children, as provided by law, without any kind of molestation or restriction whatever."

The Mennonites who appeared in court as defendants in the case just decided against them, all belong to the colony situated near Morden and Gretna, Man. The first difference in views between this particular colony and the Manitoba government occurred in 1907, when the Roblin government enacted legislation making it compulsory for all public schools in the province to fly the Canadian flag. The Mennonites decided that they could not do this on account of their religious principles and in consequence reverted to the private school class in which they did not receive the government grant. In 1913 they reconsidered the decision and flew the flag, thus becoming once again a public school. In 1916, when the School Attendance Act was passed, making it compulsory that English be taught in all the schools of the province, they once again reverted to the private school standing. The Department of Education, however, forced the matter, insisting that their children should be taught the English language. On May 1 of this year the department sent a teacher to the Houston school, but it was shown in evidence that during the time he was at the school, from May 1 until the latter part of June, the attendance was nil. The government then took action against some of the principal Mennonite citizens.

The prosecution claimed that there was no statute under which an order-in-council as the above-mentioned could be issued nor was there any statute under which the federal government at that time could enter into such an agreement. The Mennonites were found guilty and fined \$5 and costs, but one of the cases will be appealed by the Mennonites as a test case to the privy council in London.

## Hudson's Bay Company Must Pay Taxes On Its Vacant Lands

According to the decision of the Privy Council, the Hudson's Bay Co. is now liable for the surtax for the years 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917 and for the Wild Lands tax for the years 1918 and 1919, on all its vacant lands. The amount involved has been estimated at over \$500,000 and the proceeds of the surtax go to the rural municipalities and of the Wild Lands tax to the provincial Government.

The Hudson's Bay Co., the appellants, based their argument on three points: that the surtax was *ultra vires* or beyond the power of the government; that it was not validly imposed; that if it was validly imposed it was not validly imposed against the company because it contravened clause 11 of the deed surrendering Rupert's Land to the Crown. This clause provided that the company would not be subject to exceptional taxation, and it was argued that the surtax was an exceptional tax. The decision of the Saskatchewan courts where the case was most ably presented by Hon. W. F. A. Turgeon, Attorney General, and of the Privy Council, was against the company on all three points.

The rural municipalities, on the advice of the Department of Municipal Affairs, have been assessing the company each year on these lands, but not taking action to collect the taxes. They will now receive all the back taxes for the 6 years, and in addition all penalties which amount to a considerable sum.

## Trachoma in Saskatchewan

Through the eagerness of the immigration authorities to get the province settled, many immigrants suffering from trachoma managed to escape the supposed keen eyes of the inspectors and settled in Saskatchewan. Fortunately those suffering from this disease are confined to about three fairly compact districts, Lost River, Colonsay, Morris and part of Blucher, and through constant supervision it has not spread beyond these districts. About 500 cases have been found.

Now Miss M. Blau has been detailed by the bureau of public health to carry out the treatment for trachoma among those affected by this terrible eye disease. Miss Blau can speak several languages and has been especially trained in eye work and intends to practically live among these people. She has been supplied with a car, which will enable her to visit the people in their own homes, and her expenses are borne partly by the municipalities receiving her services, and partly by the provincial government.

This work is a continuation of that begun some four or five years ago by the late Dr. Glendenning, who at that period devoted his entire time to trachoma work. The bureau of public health will establish monthly clinics and all sufferers will be obliged to attend, and will be given instructions as to how they can treat themselves in their own homes. Miss Blau will also supply them with medicine, and through regular and continuous perservance she is confident that many of the cases that are not far advanced can be cured in a few months, while more serious cases will probably take a year or more.

It is quite possible that in three or four years this malady can be wholly eradicated.

## A Dangerous Weed

M. P. Tullis, Weeds and Seed Commissioner for Saskatchewan, states: "As time goes on Perennial Sow Thistle steadily takes stronger possession of the soil in this province. In spite of the best efforts of some to check it there are many who still do not realize the danger and fail to do what should be done to eradicate it.

There is no better time than now to act, in fact the longer the delay the bigger the task. The experience of Manitoba, especially the farmers of the Red River Valley, is enough to convince us that sow thistle is the very worst weed known in the west. Seeding down to grass is often used to effect the control of most of our weeds but sow thistle will choke out even brome grass.

It is a large leafy persistent plant that will grow on almost any kind of soil. It is a perennial, has running rootstocks, grows spines on the outline, yellow flowers quite similar to the common dandelion, and the whole plant is filled with a bitter, milky juice.

Experiments with chemicals including salt, ferric sulphate, arsenite and fuel oil, to destroy sow thistle by sterilisation of soil, have been tried. Up to the present fuel oil has done the best work. On gallon per square yard is effective, but on hard, heavy soils a little heavier application is recommended. No plants will grow on the soil thus treated, so that it is especially recommended for small plots along railways or uncultivated lands. Fuel oil is a residue oil and can be purchased at the Imperial Oil Refinery, Regina, at from ten to fifteen cents per gallon depending on the quantity.

Send specimens for identification, and for any other information as to its control, write to the Weeds and Seed Commissioner, Regina, Saskatchewan.

## Progress in Co-operation

Returns from the various co-operative associations in the province for the year ending April 30, 1919, have been compiled by W.W. Thompson, director of co-operative associations for Saskatchewan, and show satisfactory progress in every branch of co-operative activity. The number of shareholders have increased during the year from 12,459 to 15,132; the capital invested has increased from \$151,805.55 to \$230,002.86.

The number of associations marketing live stock has increased from 35 to 41 and the number of cars marketed was 687 as compared with 548 cars during the previous year, while the value of the live stock marketed has increased from \$1,050,285.18 to \$1,558,621.14. The value of farm produce marketed has increased considerably, and the aggregate turnover of the associa-

tions increased from \$4,150,262.83 to \$5,278,166.03 during the twelve months.

## MUSTARD PICKLES.

(Cauliflower, Onions or Cucumbers)  
Fill a 1 gallon crock with one of the above named vegetables; cover with water, add  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of salt and let stand over night.

1 quart of vinegar and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of brown sugar are put on stove, let come to a boil, drain the vegetables and put them in the boiling vinegar, let come to a boil again. Then add  $\frac{1}{2}$  tablespoons mustard, 1 heaping teaspoon turmeric powder,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup flour, mixed with some vinegar before adding it. When all is thoroughly mixed put in jars and close at once.

If you have any canned fruit left over, rub it through a sieve and utilize it as a sauce for puddings and other desserts.

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